

"Marisol"

Tanya came into the clinic for her Women, Infants, and Children Program (WIC) appointment. She did not bring her six children with her to the appointment because getting so many children on and off the bus was such a challenge. Instead, her 14-year-old daughter watched all but the littlest one while Tanya was away at her WIC appointment.

Tanya had brought only her 3-year-old daughter, Marisol, with her to her WIC appointment. The WIC staff noticed that Marisol was wearing socks, but no shoes. When they asked if there were any problems, Tanya said that her daughter had no shoes because she could not afford to buy them. She went on to say that recently she had been forced to move out of her apartment because it did not pass the housing inspection. Tanya and her family had to move into a motel and stored many of their belongings in the garage of a friend. The friend had unexpectedly moved and taken all of their belongings.



Since then, Tanya and her family had been living in a motel, but because she could not pay the bill she was about to be evicted. Her husband was unable to earn any money because he was unemployed due to a recent injury. Tanya said she desperately needed WIC because her children were hungry. It was also clear to the WIC staff that the children needed new clothes. They enrolled Marisol into the WIC program and issued Tanya vouchers to purchase some food. They also told her where she could get further assistance for future food and housing.

In the days that followed, WIC staff collected some spare clothes and shoes for Tanya's other children. Unfortunately, when the WIC staff called the motel, the manager said that Tanya and her family had moved. Tanya did not return for Marisol's next WIC appointment.